

TESTIMONY OF ERIC BROWN  
CONNECTICUT BUSINESS & INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION  
BEFORE THE  
CHILDRENS COMMITTEE

March 6, 2014

Good afternoon. My name is Eric Brown and I serve as associate council and director of energy and environmental policy for the Connecticut Business & Industry Association (CBIA). CBIA represents roughly 10,000 companies throughout Connecticut. Thank you for this opportunity for CBIA to comment in opposition to:

**H.B. No. 5036 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING CHILDREN'S PRODUCTS AND CHEMICALS OF HIGH CONCERN; and**

**H.B. No. 5354 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING CHEMICALS OF HIGH CONCERN TO CHILDREN.**

Several years ago, the General Assembly created a Chemical Innovations Institute at UCONN (Public Act 10-164). This bipartisan legislation was the result of a consensus reached among business and public health advocates on how to foster green chemistry in Connecticut and reduce the use of toxic chemicals. (See attached highlighted testimony from CT Nurses' Association and Environment Connecticut).

The goal of the Institute, as noted on its website, is "to provide resources to employers, workers, and the community to assist in the move to safer [chemical] alternatives and in the understanding of the changing international framework for chemical regulation and what that means for Connecticut businesses." For example, the Institute has conducted an initial study of chemical use in Connecticut and is now focusing on identifying effective and safer alternatives to the most toxic chemicals.

If the committee and the legislature wish to take a significant step to encourage green chemistry in Connecticut, they should look at funding options for the Institute. Approving this bill, on the other hand, would be to turn away from the collaborative consensus approach in favor of creating lists of chemicals to ban in Connecticut.

Accordingly, CBIA requests this committee reject S.B. 126.





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**TESTIMONY RE: RAISED BILL 5126  
AN ACT ESTABLISHING A CHEMICAL INNOVATIONS INSTITUTE AT THE  
UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT**

**Committee on Environment  
March 1, 2010**

**TO:** Senator Meyer, Representative Roy and members of the Environment  
Committee  
**FROM:** Anne Hulick, RN, MS, JD; Environmental Health Coordinator,  
Connecticut Nurses' Association

Good morning Senator Meyer, Representative Roy and members of the Environment  
Committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on behalf of the Connecticut  
Nurses' Association (CNA), the professional organization for registered nurses in  
Connecticut (CT), representing over 52,000 nurses. I am Anne Hulick, RN, MS, JD, a  
nurse with many years of experience in critical care, cardiology, nursing administration  
and most recently, as the Environmental Health Coordinator for CNA. The Connecticut  
Nurses' Association strongly supports H.B. 5126, *An Act Establishing A Chemical  
Innovations Institute at the University of Connecticut*.

H.B. 5126 is a win-win for Connecticut citizens and Connecticut industries. With  
increasingly stringent international regulations on chemicals, and a lack of federal law  
addressing this issue, Connecticut industries bear the burden of the need to shift from  
using harmful chemicals in their work processes to safer alternatives in order to reduce  
exposure to workers and to compete in the global marketplace. However, a shift to safer  
alternatives often requires significant research, change in workflows and training, all of  
which require significant expense. The Chemical Innovations Institute will provide much

needed support to state businesses and industry by serving as a “one-stop shopping” resource to arm businesses with research and technical information on safer alternatives. In addition, it will assist with training for businesses on international chemical regulation, assist with chemicals management and coordinate and share information from the Interstate Clearinghouse and other state institutes.

Harmful chemicals are increasingly linked to rising incidence of cancers, birth defects, asthma, diabetes and learning and behavioral disorders. A Chemical Innovations Institute can help protect public health both by assisting industries that use these chemicals for certain work processes but also those businesses that would like to shift to safer products for cleaning and maintenance of their work environments. For example, Connecticut has many health care facilities where employees work in a variety of roles to assure the delivery of high quality patient care. Yet, many of the solutions used to clean the floors, patient rooms and equipment contains toxic chemicals, exposing both the users, other employees and patients to harmful chemicals. Health care facilities, like other industries, have limited capital and resources to research new solutions and train staff in the use of new materials. As a result, exposure to harmful chemicals in our health care facilities, just like other Connecticut businesses and industries, is commonplace. A Chemical Innovations Institute can help to position Connecticut as a national leader, both in reducing chemical exposures and reducing the economic burden of shifting to safer alternatives for Connecticut industries.

I urge your support of H.B. 5126.



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Written Testimony of Christopher Phelps  
**Environment Connecticut** Program Director

Before the Connecticut General Assembly Environment Committee

Monday, March 1, 2010

**Supporting Raised House Bill 5126, An Act Establishing A Chemical Innovations Institute At The University Of Connecticut.**

Representative Roy, Senator Meyer, and members of the Committee:

On behalf of Environment Connecticut, I am submitting this testimony supporting Raised HB 5126. Environment Connecticut is a statewide, member-supported non-profit environmental advocacy organization.

The prevalence of toxic chemicals in our environment has direct negative effects on wildlife, water and air quality, and human health. This legislation would create an Institute at UConn that would position our state to create public-private partnerships aimed at reducing the use of toxic chemicals in commerce and industry. Such an institute would provide substantial, benefits to Connecticut's environment, public health and economic competitiveness.

Public-private partnerships to identify and implement less toxic alternatives to chemicals currently used by Connecticut businesses can increase the state's economic competitiveness by reducing costs associated with, among other areas, regulatory compliance in the handling and use of toxic chemicals.

Reducing the use of toxic chemicals by the state's business community would cut toxic pollution released into the state's waterways, air and landscape. This would have lasting benefits for Connecticut's wildlife, public health and quality of life in every community statewide.

The public-private partnership envisioned by this legislation is not without precedent. Massachusetts has had a similar institute operating for 20 years. (The Toxic Use Reduction Institute.) I also wish to point out to the committee that this legislation is drafted to ensure that such an Institute established at UConn would be funded through resources *other than state resources*. Section 1(i) of the bill specifically protects the university from having to divert scarce resources to fund the institute should other private, state or federal funds prove unavailable.

*Environment Connecticut is a non-profit, member-supported environmental advocacy organization working for clean air, clean water and open spaces.*

[www.EnvironmentConnecticut.org](http://www.EnvironmentConnecticut.org) / [www.facebook.com/EnvironmentConnecticut](http://www.facebook.com/EnvironmentConnecticut)

Thank you for the opportunity to offer this testimony in support of Raised HB 5126. On behalf of Environment Connecticut, I urge you to support this legislation protecting our state's water, air and public health.

Sincerely,

Christopher Phelps  
Program Director  
Environment Connecticut